



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
418 Columbus Avenue
January 9, 2024**

LANDMARK WEST! is a not-for-profit community organization committed to the preservation of the architectural heritage of the Upper West Side.

The Certificate of Appropriateness Committee wishes to comment on 418 Columbus Avenue, a Beaux-Arts style apartment building designed by Henry F. Cook and built in 1898, from within the Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District. The application is to replace storefront infill, replace a window, and install a louver.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee appreciates this refreshing alternative design to floor-to-ceiling glazed windows. It seems strange, however, to place the signage and roll-gate cover on both entrances over the frieze of triglyphs and circular motifs, which serve as inspiration for the proposed design, both on the interior and exterior of the storefront. A better option would be to reverse it so the gate box lies just below the lintel and can be inborn of the facade, not projecting into the street.

We advocate against the approval of exterior gates that completely shield commercial storefront windows and doors from view. Interior gates are preferred and do not contribute to a sense of decline in the commercial streetscape. Further, the specified gates violate a 2009 City ruling and should not be approved.

Our Committee also recommends that screens be placed behind the vertical brick motif wall, which flanks both entrances, as it seems like an ideal landing spot for trash, which may prove difficult to clean and thus detract from the landmark structure.

Thank you.